

In the Specification:

On page 1, please replace the section under **CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS** with the following replacement section.

This application is a divisional of U.S. Ser. No. 09/623,025, filed January 16, 2001, which is a National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US99/04129, filed February 25, 1999, which in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/075,948, filed February 25, 1998, which is the disclosures of each of which are herein incorporated by reference in [[its]] their entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26 with the following replacement paragraph.

Figure 1A shows a Southern hybridization gel using a full-length mtCNA P-32 probe against PMBC mt DNA of a healthy control and a patient with multiple mtDNA deletions; Figure 1B shows a DNA sequencing gel of two cDNA recombinants obtained from the RT/PCR of patient MnSOD⁻; and Figure 1C shows a schematic representation comparing an abbreviated full-length MnSOD cDNA (SEQ ID NO: 12 (upper left) and SEQ ID NO:13 (upper right)) to an abbreviated MnSOD E3(-) cDNA (SEQ ID NO: 14 (lower)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph.

Figure 3A shows a sequencing gel of MnSOD E3(-) (215 bp) from the RT/PCR product of PMBC from a patient with acute infectious mononucleosis; Figure 3B shows a schematic polynucleotide showing the exon 2-exon 4 junction of Figure 3A. The DNA sequence shown corresponds to nucleotides 10-39 of SEQ ID NO:3, and the protein sequence shown corresponds to amino acids 3-12 of SEQ ID NO:4.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7 beginning on line 25 with the following replacement paragraph.

Figure 8 shows a western analysis of an *E. coli* extract containing MnSOD E3(-) polypeptide (~~lanes A and C~~) (lanes B and D) and an *E. coli* extract containing normal MnSOD (~~lanes B and D~~) (lanes A and C). The extracts were probed using either an MnSOD E3(-) antibody (lanes A and B) or an antibody against normal MnSOD (lanes C and D).

Please replace pages 1-5 of the sequence listing beginning with “<110> University of Nevada-Reno...” with the enclosed pages 1-5 of the substitute sequence listing beginning with “<110> Anziano, Paul Q.”